

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 HA-05 MCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ACDA-12 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /118 W

-----035191 062313Z /70

R 051705Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5703

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, OAU, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN COMMENTS ON THE HORN AND CUBA'S ROLE THERE

1. DR. FAFOWARA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT, TOLD CHARGE MAY 5 THAT COMMISSIONER GARBA STILL EXPECTS TO VISIT ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISCIO SOME TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE PURSUANT TO NIGERIA'S ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU'S GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTION OF THE OGADEN ISSUE. FMG HAS ASKED THE SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS WHAT TIME WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THIS VISIT, BUT NEITHER HAS ANSWERED. FAFOWARA AGREED WITH CHARGE THAT ETHIOPIA IS IN NO MOOD FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE OGADEN AND HE SAID THAT SIAD BARRE IS PROBABLY TOO CONCERNED WITH HIS INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS TO DESIRE A MEETING RIGHT NOW. IN ANY CASE, PROSPECTS FOR FAFOWARA SAID THAT, WITH THE HOSTILITIES ENDED, THE FMG NOW HAS NO INTENTION OF CONVENING A MEETING OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE. IT ASSUMES THAT THE SUBJECT WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING IN JULY.

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2. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF CUBA'S ROLE IN ETHIOPIA, CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN FORCES SINCE THE END OF HOSTILITIES IN THE OGADEN AND THAT CUBA SEEMS NOT TO HAVE DECIDED AS YET WHETHER ITS FORCES IN ETHIOPIA WILL ENTER COMAT IN ERITREA. HE SAID THAT THIS SITUATION CAUSES THE US CONSIDERABLE CONCERN.

3. FAFOWARA REPLIED THAT EVEN THOUGH NIGERIANS PRIVATELY WOULD BE UNHAPPY TO SEE CUBAN TROOPS FIGHTING IN ERITREA, THE FMG WOULD CERTAINLY NOT ISSUE A PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF SUCH ACTIVITY. HE THOUGHT THAT VERY FEW IF ANY AFRICAN STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO. FAFOWARA SAID THIS ATTITUDE MERELY REFLECTED THE BASIC OAU PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES. THAT PRINCIPLE, HE SAID, APPLIES NOT ONLY TO DEFENSE AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION BUT ALSO TO A GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE AGAINST ATTEMPTED SECESSION FROM WITHIN.

4. FAFOWARA POINTED TO NIGERIA'S OWN CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE AS ANOTHER REASON WHY NIGERIA COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN ERITREA. HE ADDED THAT THE CONSIDERATIONS HE HAD MENTIONED WOULD GOVERN THE ATTITUDE OF THE FMG TOWARDS THE USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ERITREA EVEN THOUGH MANY NIGERIAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE ERITREANS.

5. COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS BEAR OUT OUR EARLIER PREDICTION (LAGOS 5316) THAT THE FMG IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE PART, IN MEETINGS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OR ELSEWHERE, IN CONDEMNATION OF THE CUBAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA, WHETHER IT BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OGADEN OR ERITREA OR BOTH.

WYMAN

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT REPEAT NOT PASSED COLLECTIVE ADDEES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014